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April 24, 1896

proportion escapes. But there are other causes, and I believe a great one is that nearly every year someone discovers a new specific for a disease which is not to be specifically treated with any success, and reliance is too often placed on the remedy to the exclusion of old and tried methods. Disinfectant and antiseptic treatment has had, and is having, its run, and, properly applied, has excellent effects, but alone there never has been found a specific disinfectant. This year from the very start eucalyptus has been vaunted as an almost sure cure, and has been applied in different ways, until now, late in the season, many if not most of the practitioners have abandoned its use, though in the beginning the public prints teemed with notices of almost miraculous cures signed by prominent medical men.

The use of new and improved methods in rapidly fatal disease is unwarranted, and though I used the eucalyptus in several cases, I did not neglect known and tried methods which had before given me good results, and my success this year was as good as ever. I have done better with Dr. Sternberg's bichloride of mercury, conjoined with large and deep disinfectant clysters, than with any other disinfectant, unless, perhaps, with sodium benzoate. Also, from the teachings of an able, scientific, and justly considered high authority, tincture of cantharides is given against anuria, the most fatal symptom, but such an irritating stimulant, if given in active doses, I consider dangerous, though the homeopathic doses of one-third of a drop every two hours, which are used here, can do little harm, unless other known and efficient means are neglected. And yesterday I read in the morning paper of a brand new treatment, which is arsenic.

Now, with all these elements of tentative treatment, is it to be wondered at that the disease is very fatal? I hope to give a better health report next week.

Since last report, the following-named ships have been inspected or received bills of health from this office: March 26, British bark *Mozambique*, for New York, and British ship *W. H. Corsair*, for Ship Island, Mississippi; March 27, British steamship *Mozart*, for New York, American barkentine *Glad Tidings*, for Barbados, West Indies, and British steamship *Manitoba*, from Santos for New York.

Respectfully yours,
R. CLEARY, M. D.,
Sanitary Inspector, U. S. M. H. S.

CHINA.

Bubonic plague in Hongkong.

HONGKONG, March 3, 1896.

SIR: I have the honor to inform the Department that this colony has been declared afflicted with bubonic plague. Quarantine has been established by the Straits Government in consequence thereof, and a decrease of business may be looked for, though the plague is certainly not raging in a virulent form. I might say at present only sporadic cases occur, and, as we are having rains, we may have diminution instead of increase. Of course, every precaution is taken against the spread of the disease. Even if more serious, the consequence will not be as great as may appear from our experience in 1894, which to a certain extent demonstrates that it is not probable that it will be transferred from Asia to America. The time of incubation being from three to ten days, and, as you are advised, that it is in fact endemic and not

epidemic, I will not cable unless something unusual occurs. My sanitary report will exhibit the number of weekly deaths. While a considerable experience here has shown the unlikelihood of its extension by long stages of trade or of passenger traffic, I should not wish to be oblivious to the very serious nature of the problem when a dirty city's poor are infected with its presence. I consider that the seriousness of its endemicity here is fully recognized on all hands.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

W. E. HUNT,
United States Consul.

Hon. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE.

CUBA.

Sanitary report of Santiago.

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, April 11, 1896.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit the following report on the sanitary condition of Santiago de Cuba for the week ended April 11:

Forty deaths have been recorded for this period, of which 1 was from yellow fever, 2 from confluent smallpox, 2 from diphtheria, 5 from remittent bilious fever, 3 from enteric fever, 5 from tuberculosis, 2 from pernicious fever, 2 from typhomalaria; the rest from common diseases of non-contagious character. Smallpox continues to increase, and there are 25 cases confined in the smallpox hospital, while there are many cases in the town of which the physicians hear nothing about, as they are treated by quacks and spiritualists, of whom there are quite a large number in the city. Vaccination is still spasmodically practiced, having no means of procuring vaccine except from Habana once or twice a week.

Yellow fever is stationary, although the cases presenting themselves are now of a milder character, and the death rate has decreased somewhat, as happens usually about this time of the year until the summer season sets fairly in, when the disease takes its usual malignant form. The reports about yellow fever are not very encouraging in other cities; in Santa Clara, for example, several native Cubans have died from it, and the cases of two negroes, who took the fever and died, have aroused the attention of all the physicians, as we always maintained that the colored race in Cuba seemed to enjoy a complete immunity from this disease. Spring diarrhea is very common just now; so are malarial fevers, which take the typhomalarial type.

Respectfully yours,

HENRY S. CAMINERO, M. D.,
Sanitary Inspector, U. S. M. H. S.

INDIA.

Quarantine restrictions against arrivals from Hongkong.

SINGAPORE, February 28, 1896.

SIR: I have the honor to submit to you the inclosed copy of a Government gazette extraordinary, issued yesterday to the effect that bubonic plague had broken out in Hongkong; that the said port had consequently been declared infected, and that all vessels arriving therefrom at Singapore would have to be put in quarantine.

I have the honor to be, etc.,

E. SPENCER PRATT,

United States Consul-General.

Hon. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE, Washington, D. C.